

*Pst. Oghenethoja Umuteme*  
*MSc MDiv ThD*

# Fruitful Vine

***A Study Devotional***



# Spending Time With God

Time	Description	Action
5:00am - 5:30am	Praising His awesomeness in the cool of the morning breeze and Dedicating of the day's activity. You may decide to do it outside to feel the cool morning breeze	Prayer/Praise
9:00am-9:05am	Read a Psalm of praise back to Him. Tell Him what you feel for Him in adoration and total submission	Praise
12:00am - 12:30pm	It is noontime – half of the workday is gone. Tell Him thank you for allowing you cross over to the other half of the workday. Thank Him for all that transpired while you worked	Prayer/Praise
4:00pm- 4:05pm	Read another Psalms of Praise	Praise
6:00pm - 6:30pm	Thank Him for the day. You are probably now at home. Call the family together or a neighbour and worship Him together	Prayer/Praise
9:00pm - 9:05pm	Read a Psalms of praise after which you should take a rest while reading your bible and meditating	Praise
11:55pm - 12:30am	Thank Him for allowing you to see a new day and take control of the new day	Prayer/Praise

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Address all enquiries to the publisher:

**Restoration Media House Limited**

+234-8086737791, +2348076190064,

Email: [rmhltd.info@gmail.com](mailto:rmhltd.info@gmail.com)

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Oghenethoja Umuteme



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# Preface

This maiden edition of *The Fruitful Vine Devotional* is a dream come true. After receiving requests from those who had read my books to commence the writing of devotionals, I had waited on the Lord for a direction on what to write on. While it may seem easy to pick up Bible verses and write, my idea of a devotional was to touch lives with the world of Faith, Truth and

Hope, as Christians journey on the path of spiritual consciousness and re-awakening. So, when I heard a voice instructing me to commence this devotional on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2018, my heart leaped for joy. Yet, I was still not sure of the structure and contents. This became the subject of my prayer – I needed clearer directions. This edition is the answer to that prayer.

As aptly titled, *The Fruitful Vine Devotional*, is anchored on Isaiah 32:12, “They shall lament for ...the fruitful vine.” It is a longing for the blessings of the Lord. Therefore, the structure adopted throughout this devotional and succeeding series is centred on issues of contemporary concerns, which have made it impossible for Christians to reap their blessings from the Lord. Each topical discourse will feature a brief exegesis, followed by sound hermeneutics. As much as possible, inference will be made on life instances or stories, followed by faith confession. We will then pray through a prayer line, and in the end, I will provide some relevant Bible portions for personal meditation.

## **Pastor Oghenethoja Umute**

*BTech (Mar. Engrg); MSc (Oil & Gas Engrg); MSc  
(Organisational Psychology);  
MBS (Biblical Studies); MTS (Theological Studies),  
MTh (Theology); M.Div. (Divinity);  
Th.D. (Theology); PhD (Engrg – in view)*

Jan 1, 2019

# It Is Dawn

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*... take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. 2 Peter 1:19*

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**W**e are honoured to be numbered among the Lord's light bearers. What does light represent? One thing we know that light does is its power over darkness. Those who walk in darkness grope, but not so for light bearers. We read in Acts 22:6, how Paul recounted his happenstance with the Lord. It was noon, yet the light of the Lord was so great that it diminished the power of the sun. If the sun could not resist the light of God, how much more will darkness flee when we bear the light of the Lord? In today's world, we come across 'darkness' as situations of life that aims to threaten our existence. The forces of darkness that dwell in the high places of this world – in politics, workplaces, marriages, society, etc., have tried to make Christians to sweep their faith under

the carpet. But, we must remember that if we are light bearers of the Lord, the Lord will arise in our hearts, to grant us everlasting peace in all our endeavours in life.

**Faith confession:** *This is the first day of the first month in 2019. 'It is dawn' for me – I have sailed through rough waters with the light of the Lord. Therefore, my 'day star' is risen in my heart. My afflictions have been subdued by the light of the Lord. It is time for me to triumph and become a fruitful vine unto the Lord.*

**Let us pray:** *May this scripture portion define my new bearing in life. May the joy of our Lord, Jesus Christ, manifest the glory of God in my life henceforth. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Mat. 5:14-16; Isa. 42:16

Jan 2, 2019

# Born with a Unique Purpose

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*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10*

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According to UNICEF, about 353,000 babies are born each day of every year around the world. What makes you unique? God is expecting each and every one of us to be unique, and to exhibit His creative works in our lives. This is the more reason we ought not to follow the crowd, to imitate anyone. Christ admonished His disciples to follow Him, as He revealed the 'Father' to them through the works He did in their midst. Our intentions must be in tune with the purpose and thoughts of God for us (Jer. 29:11). This can be inferred when King David said in Psa. 63:6, "When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches." We must fix our attention and mind on the thoughts of God for us. Those who meditate on God act like Him (Pro. 23:7). You are uniquely created for a purpose, and that

purpose is in the thoughts of God for you.

**Faith confession:** *Lord! Today I reconcile my life with your purpose and intentions for me. As from today, I promise to live according to your own design for my life. I rest my hope upon your word and faith. Let my days satisfy your desire for me and let me be conscious of your righteous thoughts for me.*

**Let us pray:** *Lord – As I begin to rediscover your precious thoughts and desires for me, let me experience abundant grace from your throne. Let your mercy overshadow and subdue every unrighteous thought in my mind. Help me – Dear Lord, to know you more. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Jer. 1:5; Psa. 139:14; Rom. 12:1-21

Jan 3, 2019

# The Benefit in Knowing God

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*Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments ...Deuteronomy 7:9*

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**A**s Christians, we become matured in faith when we know that there is no other God beside our God (Deut. 4:35). Hence, Jesus admonished the disciples not to look for another God beside Him (Jn. 14:9-10). This is important to us, as it equally enables us to know how to approach the Father through our saviour. God is ever faithful, and keeps covenants and mercy for those who know Him and revere Him as their God. Christ is in God and God is in Christ. This truth is what separate Christians from religious seekers of God. We have God, they seek God. We are in God through Christ, they are without God because they do not know Christ nor have Him (Jn. 3:18). We are admitted into the inner chamber of the King to sup the wine of the New Testament with Him. During our communion in faith with the

Lord, He honours whatever we ask in His name (Jn. 14:13-14). This is one place where Christ revealed Himself as God – with the power to forgive sins and answer prayers. We won't know when God speaks to us if we don't know Him (1 Sam. 3:7-10).

**Faith confession:** *Lord! I now know that – truly, you are my God. Though other religions doubt this truth, severally in the scriptures, you revealed yourself as the true God who left His throne to unite mankind with the purpose of heaven.*

**Let us pray:** *Lord! Let my understanding of who you are today renew the faith of God in me. In Jesus name - Amen!*

**Meditation:** Luke 11:13; Luke 22:54-62

Jan 4, 2019

# The Magnificent Glory of God

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*And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. Exodus 16:10*

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God showed up in His Glory on this day while the Israelites were in the wilderness. Instead of receiving His blessings, they were rather doomed for eternity because of their murmurings. Jesus prayed for this Glory (Jn. 17:24). His presence has been rendered as Shekinah in Hebrew. Can we still behold His glory today? You can be rest assured that as you dwell your mind on the things that concerns Him, His glory comes to reveal Him to you daily. Sometimes, you see a great bright light in the sky in your night visions – that is His glory. As you look around you now – His glory is even more obvious: the sun, moon, cool breeze, your neighbours, the magnificent creations of the hands of man, etc.

When we were commanded to love our neighbours, it is because they shelter the glory of God within them, though this glory may have been diminished by sin (Rom. 3:23).

**Faith confession:** *Lord, I understand that you want me to admonish and express your glory daily. I am equally aware that you reveal your personality in your glory.*

**Let us pray:** *My Lord, My God, please help me to admonish your glory daily. Help my heart not to wander over things of vain glory, but to dwell in your magnificent glory all the days of my life.*  
*In Jesus name - Amen!*

**Meditation:** Isa. 66:11; Isa. 60:2



Jan 5, 2019

# Forgetting the Past

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*...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Cor. 5:17*

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**A**s humans, there is the tendency of attaching emotions to events that happened to us in the past – deaths, accidents, thefts, unemployment, etc. Also, when we are hurt by close friends and relatives, we often think we have lost all as a result of the positive effect of good relationships to our wellbeing. In time past, we were alienated from God because of our sins until Christ came to restore us back to God. God was angry then – but no more. He hated man then, because humankind was desperately wicked. Today, that has changed. If God can forgive and forget our past, isn't it a glorious idea that we also forgive and forget the wrongs that were done against us or we did to ourselves? As long as we are now new creatures in Christ, our past is dead with yesterday. Our spirit being is resurrected with Christ to give our flesh a brand-new life. Though we

still carry the same old faces, we are no more the same old persons. This is the reason behind the 'new names' that God gave to Abram and Sarah. After God cursed mankind with death-bearing penalties, we still see Adam naming his wife, 'Eve,' meaning life-bearing. No matter that ill-situation of yesterday, it is time to rename your today and your future with the life-giving promises of God.

**Faith confession:** *Lord – Jesus! I know that you want me to forget my yesterday. I also, understand that I have been recreated by your death and resurrection. I know you are set to do a new thing in my life.*

**Let us pray:** *Ever Faithful Lord and God, you are recreating everything in my life. Help me dear Lord to realise the work you have begun in me, so that I can live beyond my past. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Deut. 4:32-35; 1 Co. 2:9

Jan 6, 2019

# Pressing Upon Jesus

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*And it came to pass, that, as the  
people pressed upon Him to hear  
the word of God, ... Luke 5:1*

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**I**t is easy to become discouraged about the situations of life, especially when we try to make ends meet without positive results. Occasionally, many see us as failures. As Christians, measuring our success with those of others, especially when they are of other religious faith is not healthy to our spiritual maturity in Christ. Trials may come, but in all we have to follow the footsteps of our Lord, who despised the shame and aimed for the reward of glory in obedience to the will of God for Him. In Luke 5:1, we come to realise how many people “pressed upon” Jesus to hear the word of God. Is this what we do today? It was in such an occasion, that the woman of Luke 8:43-44, who was discharging blood for twelve years, got healed. No matter the condition of life that threatens your faith – keep pressing in on Jesus, and your breakthrough will come. Saint Paul endured the perils of torture that

came his way. In the end, he was so sure that a greater reward awaits him – 2 Tim. 4:7, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” Be encouraged to equally stand tall for the Lord, in the midst of worldly challenges.

***Faith confession:*** *I am a child of faith. My destiny is established in the love of God in Christ. I am confident that I am on the right path that will lead me to the glory of God. I am a partaker of Truth. I am not giving up – forever, will I press upon the Lord!*

***Let us pray:*** *Lord – Jesus! Give me the enduring heart to keep pressing upon you – to desire to hear Your word, so that my breakthrough will come henceforth. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** 1 Cor. 16:13; Jam. 1:12; Rev. 3:11

Jan 7, 2019

# The Glorious Choice

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*But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. 1 Cor. 1:27*

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**W**e all make choices in life. In effect, life is full of choices. How many times have we bemoan the wrong choices we made, and regret the repercussions of those choices? Several, I guess! Yet, we can't live without making choices. Scripture teaches us how to make glorious and right choices in life. First, we learnt that choice making is not about numbers (Deut. 7:7; Judg. 7:4; Mat. 22:14). Second, choice making should not be based solely on outward appearance (1 Sam. 16:7). Third, choice making should not be based on displayed power and might (Zech. 4:6). Fourth, choice making should equally not be by what pleases us or our fellows, but what pleases God (Isa.56:4). What inferences can we draw out from the above scripture portions? It is the fact that we have to continually put our hope and trust in His choice for

us. It is natural for humans to choose by numbers, beauty, power and might, and whatever catches our fancy. However, our God knows what is best for us. In reply to Martha's question in Luke 10:42, Jesus anchored on the importance of choosing what is "needful," which no one can take away from us. This implies that whatever we can lose hold of when the tempest of life threatens our faith, is not worth considering as a right choice for living. What guides your choices?

***Faith confession:*** *I promise to always follow the footstep of God in the choices I make daily.*

***Let us pray:*** *Lord! Guide me into making glorious choices that can establish your love in my life. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** Judg. 5:8; Exo. 18:25; Psa. 25:12

Jan 8, 2019

# Behind Destiny = What Next?

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*In your patience possess ye your souls. Luke 21:19*

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**A**ll the rushing to meet up one engagement or the other, can be likened to how we often try to hurry God to answer our prayers so that we won't be behind "destiny." This is January – a lot of hope is buried deep beneath our thoughts. As if on a competitive race, we desire the testimonies of good accord with all optimism. Are we really behind destiny? Are we really short-changed by God? Are we getting all the ugly and bad deals of life because we are in the bad book of God? The last questions seem to be the reason for all the fasting and prayers that ushers in this month of the year. If we see the kind of life we intend to live as a building project, then it requires all the diligence that is needed in planning the future from today. Jesus opened up a very relevant inference to our discussion in Luke 14:28, For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have

sufficient to finish it? While it is a good thing to start the year with fasting and prayer – it equally requires us to set out our targets, counting the cost involve, fashioning a way forward, and implementing the stages one after the other. A character that is needed is more of far-sightedness. There is still time to meet up if you start now! Don't forget, old age will soon set in - what plan have you set up now to take you into a glorious future?

***Faith confession:*** *My Lord and Saviour, I understand that I need to plan my life early in your plan and purpose for mankind.*

***Let us pray:*** *Teach me dear Lord to be patient - to develop and focus on the plan of a great glorious future for me and my household. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** Heb. 10:36; Psa. 145:19

Jan 9, 2019

# Dew of Peace

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*And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night,  
the manna fell upon it. Numbers 11:9*

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**T**he Israelites held their peace for a while once the manna started falling. The question that will quickly come to mind is why the dew had to precede the falling of the manna. Scripture tells us that manna was angels food (Psa. 78:25). Despite this, many in the camp wanted to go back to Egypt. This keeps me wondering, if there is any need for 'Tomorrow' for a people who believe so much in 'Yesterday' than 'Today.' The inner rumble of thoughts that enveloped them was the reason why the peace of God never remained with them, and majority of them had to die in the wilderness. The peace of God brings longevity. As the dew falls every morning, so also the earth is being replenished with part of the water vapour it lost into the atmosphere due to vaporisation, until the rain falls when a substantial amount of the water lost is returned. The implication of the above is that our peace will definitely come by His

mercy and grace, but gradually until we are ready with a contrite spirit to receive the fullness of His glory and grace. Remember, people can work and walk with you when the Spirit of the Lord is upon them (1 Chron. 12: 16-18). Hence, select your companions and friends wisely also. They must have the Spirit of God if you want the dew of peace to rest upon you and your investments for a long time.

***Faith confession:*** *Lord! I am aware that the more I depend and trust in you, the more I receive you into myself, and my peace will come gradually like the dews of heaven.*

***Let us pray:*** *Oh! My Lord and God, let my peace come from you. Input in me the ability to follow you sincerely and perfectly. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** 1 Pet 3:10-13; John 14:27

Jan 10, 2019

# Among the Little Flock?

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*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32*

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**E**arlier we studied that God do not necessarily makes His choices by numbers. Out of the multitude, God is choosing you to become His own, if one can follow to serve Him in the purity of one's heart till the end. Daily, we hear of many souls departing the earth. While we are concerned about losing them to the cold hands of death, we must equally contemplate their lives on earth – if, indeed they were among the “Little Flock” of Christ. The Bible admonishes us in Ecclesiastes 7:4, that “The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.” This action, can assist us to think about the 'day of ending' – that day when all our material and physical wishes is put to rest. It will also make us to show restraint in the pursuit of wealth, knowing that we won't be welcomed into heaven because of the multitude of material wealth we had while on earth. Today, therefore calls for sober reflection; to think deeply

within us, and to reaffirm our commitment to the voice of the Lord. Are we easily thrown into illusions? Do we judge the character of others blindly when we have not given attention to our own ill-characters? Have we unknowingly oppressed others and snatched away their joy? Jesus is the first of everything – “without Him, was not any thing made that was made” (Jn 1:3). Keep Him first in your life and your smile will come forth.

***Faith confession:*** Lord! I understand that you come first in everything. It is my desire to reflect upon the will of God for my life. I want to desire heaven first – above all material possessions.

***Let us pray:*** Lord! Help me to follow your footsteps and be among your “Little Flock” on earth, all the days of my life – Amen!

***Meditation:*** Heb. 10:19-25; Rev. 2:10

Jan 11, 2019

# Not Another Merry Go Round

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*...Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here... Ruth 2:8*

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**H**ere, we see Boaz counselling Ruth to stay truthful to the instruction given to her by Naomi, though he wasn't privy to Naomi's counsel to Ruth. As we read further into verse 9, we come across a condition of success, "Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them..." - keeping our eyes on the source of our success, and following those who lead us – who are more experienced. It was a time of harvest. Naomi was not there when the field was grown, but here she is to reap as long as she obeys Naomi's and Boaz's instructions. Are you about to abandon your current career, job, marriage, home, etc., because things are not favourable? it is important to ask if you have headed all the instructions and advices that will enable you to succeed on this path of life. Again, we see a charge from God, that implies man ought to abide by His commands to experience life - Lev. 8:35. It is really not about what we think, it is about how the process

works – whether in the spiritual or material world, it is always about the "Process." It is advisable to follow the instructions that defines the process - for there lies the secret to success, and there will be no need wandering in search for another place of refuge. Jesus equally commanded His disciples to teach according to His command, to remain in His presence (Matt. 28:20). Act now - never engage yourself in another merry go round! Never stay on an issue that is not yielding fruit more than necessary.

***Faith confession:*** *Lord! I understand that life is not about wandering about, but about following the instructions that defines the process that will enable me to succeed.*

***Let us pray:*** *Dear Lord! I pray for your counsel and ask that you guide me on the path of life that will enable me to succeed. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** Luke 17:7-10; Gen. 7:16

Jan 12, 2019

# Still Expecting Sympathy?

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*Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends;  
for the hand of God hath touched me. Job 19:21*

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I do not really like to be in a situation where I would expect sympathy from others. The scripture portion above speaks volume of why we should not rely on the 'pity' from man. The more Job expected pity from his friends, the more they made him realize that their friendship was founded on good tidings only. We are in the first month of the year. There is the tendency to meet church members and even, friends and relatives to sympathise with your situation and provide us with financial or material assistance. While it is not totally wrong to seek pity and help from others, what happens when they turn us down? We might not be able to show our faces around them anymore. Then – there is inferiority complex that will set in once we come across them, or we might develop hatred for them, which would mean that we are undermining God's instruction to love. I will advise that we allow God

to show us pity and come to our aid. It is the main reason for serving Him and trusting in His arm. God will only deny us His pity if we do abominable things against His person (Ezk 5:11). Hence, if we can make our ways right with His purpose, He will show us His pity. Implying, He will come to our aid earlier than we anticipated.

**Faith confession:** *Lord! I understand that I need no pity from man. I also know that man's pity can lead to a mockery of your person. I will continually wait on your sympathy henceforward.*

**Let us pray:** *Dear Lord! Honestly, I know I have wronged you by expecting men to show me pity. Teach me to continually wait upon your sympathy – not by compulsion, but by divine obedience to your will for my life. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Gen. 39:21; 1 Sam. 2:26



Jan 13, 2019

# Together to Safety

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*And the Lord said unto Noah, "come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." Gen. 7:1*

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**I**f there is one enemy shattering the creations of God, it is 'unrighteousness.' To discuss unrighteousness is to clearly state what righteousness is all about. Noah and his family were gathered into the ark because Noah was righteous before God. What did he actually do? He heeded the warning from God, and obeyed to build the ark as commanded – even when there was no historical evidence of a continuous rain that could destroy the world. He preached to others concerning the impending danger, who mocked him and went about their daily materialistic lives. Jesus referred to the Noah's kind of righteous in John 20:29, "blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." Righteousness can be linked to Faith – and Faith linked to "believing what is true," as Jesus espoused in John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,

but have everlasting life." Here, the importance of reaping success or failure from what we believe in is clearly shown. Noah believed in God and his obedience brought him and his family to safety. In the last day, our righteousness before God will be weighed based on our belief in Christ - to earn us safety in God's kingdom of Light. In same way – our belief in the terms of our marriage covenant will save our marriages from deadness and emotional decay. Thus, families can gather to safety if God become the focus of life.

**Faith confession:** *Lord! I understand that I can only be saved from sin if my righteousness expresses my Faith and Belief in you.*

**Let us pray:** *Oh God! Help me to be faithful in righteousness to all your command, and to desire you more than material wealth. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Ezra 9:15; Psa. 7:8-10

Jan 14, 2019

# Success in Diligence

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*... the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life - Prov. 13:4; Prov. 4:23*

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What is diligence? It simply means being attentive to the issues of life and taking learning from them to be applied now and in the future to ensure the same mistake that brought us pains are not repeated. An anonymous quote says, "A child who reads will be an adult who thinks." This seems to be true because reading requires patience. But, I will rephrase the above quote to read, "A child who reads and understand everything he reads, is likely to become an adult who thinks." I have added 'understanding' and a probability term, "likely," to the quote. Why? We reap wisdom from what we understand. Again, the likelihood of becoming what our early days in life predicts is hinged on how we make progress overtime on the course we diligently pursued early in life. Hence, it is not about reading everything, but "reading right." Closely related to understanding is "Learning." We may read the words that come our way, but we may not learn everything the words says. Hence the indexes of success lie in our ability to patiently

assimilate words. The world we live today is framed in Words – the first chapter of the biblical book of Genesis tells us this. The place of learning cannot be removed from the path of human success. Jesus said, "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" - Jn. 3:12. Does this ring a bell of why we must learn about earthly things to succeed on earth? However, we must explain the earthly things we learn with the mind of fulfilling the will of God in heaven - Matt. 6:10.

**Faith confession:** *Lord! I understand that sluggishness is linked to laziness, and that diligent decisions enables early success in life.*

**Let us pray:** *Lord! let me sustain your strength and be attentive to the Words and Instructions that can help me succeed in life. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Psa. 107:43; Psa. 119:34; Jonah 2:8

Jan 15, 2019

# Implications of Doubt

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*... Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him,  
O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? Matt. 14:31.*

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Other words that can be used in place of 'doubt,' include – hesitation, reluctance, foot-dragging, etc. I purposely listed the three words above to stress the fact that doubt as an action of faithlessness can lead to being hesitant in taking a firm step of faith. In the Scripture verse above, Peter did walk on water as Jesus, but his faithlessness came because he doubted the power that was imparted upon him when Jesus commanded him to "Come" (vs. 29). Why? The Bible tells us that, "...when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink..." (vs. 30). You see, fear gripped him the moment he took his eyes away from the focus of life – from the face of the one that commanded him to "Come." The moment we have handed our lives to the care of heaven through Christ, we need not give thoughts to situations that threatens our existence on earth – be they politically, socially, or religiously minded. All these threats are the "boisterous wind" that pushes against your drive for

success, and 'foot-dragging' in taking that decision of faith. Do you have any plan ahead? Are you putting that goal in life before God? Is your trust in Christ strong enough to deaden other voices of insecurity in you? Then, look towards the source of your calling – Jesus. He is calling you to "Come," to show you kindness, love and care. Peter cried when he was sinking – do not wait to start sinking before calling out to Him. As long as His power is available in His Words, strengthen your faith in Him and move forward always - Psa. 110:3, and not for a season – John 5:35, in unbelief – John 5:38.

**Faith confession:** *Lord! I understand that fear can lead to doubt, and it can make me become unwilling to push for success in life.*

**Let us pray:** *Help me – Dear Lord! to overcome fear and doubt. Let me trust in you against all odds. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Psa. 110:3; Isa. 1:19; 2 Pet. 3:9

Jan 16, 2019

# Grazing for Grace

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*And the Grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 1:14*

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If there is one phrase that Christians use so often, it is the "Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ." Here Grace can be seen as both a noun and a verb. It is a noun because it refers to a unique character of heavenly presence in Jesus. The word 'Grace' have been used in christening children. Other words that can be used to define grace include – loveliness, kindness, beauty, and elegance. Hence, one can say that the Grace of God in Christ displays the splendour of heaven in Him (Psa. 84:11). In effect, Grace accompanies the Glory of God. The almighty God withholds nothing from those who found Grace in His eyes. "Noah found Grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen. 6:8), because he lived a righteous life. Meaning, Noah was attracted to God for living a sinless life. As a verb – the Grace of Christ causes the forgiveness of God to be released upon whomever the Lord has chosen to walk with Him (Titus 2:11). To put it in the right context, one can say that as sheep of Christ in His flock, our lives on earth is likened to sheep grazing in greener

pastures. Every shepherd that wants high yield from his flocks will definitely take them to pastures with evergreen and healthy leaves. Hence, the Lord is calling us into His Glorious Kingdom of Light where the Grace of God abounds. We must labour to get His attention, through obedience and dedication to His calling for us. It is the highest heavenly call. It is the Grazing for Grace – seeking God's attention for redemption and blessings. We are in this everlasting Kingdom of Grace to obtain the favour of God, so that being totally justified by Grace we can be saved eternally.

**Faith confession:** *My Lord – My God, I desire your Grace. I want to be attracted to you. I know I have to be sinless to get your attention.*

**Let us pray:** *Oh Lord my God, help my poor spirit I pray thee – to do the things that pleases you and will make you look in my direction. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Titus 3:7; 2 Cor. 6:1-10

Jan 17, 2019

# I Almost Gave Up

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*... charge Joshua, and encourage him,  
and strengthen him...Deut. 3:28*

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I remember the day I graduated in Master of Divinity at the Nations University, and I looked back to the days I almost felt like quitting, but for the encouragement of my wife. The same happened to me when I had my MSc in oil and gas engineering from the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen – and also looked back to the days I made up my mind to quit, but also for the encouragement of my wife. These above occasions made me to understand the importance of encouragement from others. It was recorded that Job encouraged others to succeed –Job 4:3-4. Even in ministry, events had compelled me to quit, but for that inner voice of encouragement and from people's testimonies. Are you giving up on your career, health, marriage, business, ministry, etc.? You are not alone in this. There are so many people with the smiling faces you see – also going through your kind of situation, if not worse. This is so, because the world we live is full of factors that stares angrily at our faces, challenging us to halt our intentions for a better life. Let us put it this way; the world is at equilibrium – at 'peace' so to speak, but your action is going to make

the world experience some kind of change. As a result, what you see as impediments can be likened to a counter reaction from the forces in the world. But, if you have the support of God on your side, the world will finally respond to your desire. We can take learning from the book of Genesis 1:1-2, where God intensified His presence with His spirit before the earth could respond to Him. Yet, the earth did not experience light in full, but God separated the light from the darkness. Today – the darkness has proven useful as the time we all go to sleep and rest from our various hustles. That ugly situation in your life, can begin to bear fruit if God is involved.

**Faith confession:** *Lord! I understand that I need those who can encourage me as my companions. I also understand that I need to encourage others to succeed.*

**Let us pray:** *I pray thee o Lord! let Your counsel never fail me. Let me be in the company of those who can encourage me to succeed in you. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Eph. 3:14-20; Neh. 5:19

Jan 18, 2019

# On the Edge of Success

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*Those that be planted in the house of the Lord  
shall flourish in the courts of our God. Psalm 92:13*

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Moses was instructed to send spies to investigate the land that God was given to them—Num. 13. God instructed Abraham to walk the length and breadth of the land he will be inheriting—Gen. 13:17. God does not grant you success without allowing you to have a full picture of what is before you. It takes great diligence for cartographers to put maps together – one piece at a time, until the entire world is today mapped, and they continually improve on what they have. Maps have served the purpose of assisting mankind to navigate the world. If you are planning to succeed in life in that chosen vocation, then you are on the edge of success. Hence, our thoughts precede what we eventually become, provided we can map our future from today's experience. Understand your weakness and strengths, and seek for assistance in areas you need help. We are in the midst of others daily to learn, and improve on ourselves. I always believe that God brings me in the company of others to either add value to someone's life or to have knowledge of what I needed to improve on in my life. Are you thinking of succeeding? You are already

there – on the edge of success. Great people start by preparing themselves for the challenges ahead of them. Jesus did same by going into the wilderness to fast in wait for the Devil's temptation (Matt. 4:1). Those who shy away from challenges often end up as losers. Marriage is meant for those who are willing to overcome challenges of child bearing and rearing, and of enduring insults from others, for instance. Employment comes to those who are willing to be submissive to their managers. Admission into a program of study is for those who are willing to spend nights studying rather than partying.

***Faith confession:*** *God! I understand that success comes from you alone – and that I need to start by creating the map of my future with the evidence of today.*

***Let us pray:*** *Dear Lord! let me continually learn to depend on your wisdom. As I begin to create my future, let me receive divine wisdom from you. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** *Psa. 92:12-14; Luke 12:22-30; Philippians 4:8-9*

Jan 19, 2019

# Creating Failures

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*.. Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure  
in the prosperity of his servant. Psa. 35:27*

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**W**hat are we creating with our own hands that is responsible for the failures of many? The Lord is interested in our prosperity, as we can see from the anchor verse above. Yet, why do many find it difficult to breakthrough from the yoke of failure, even when they have put in so much effort living a sinless life. In some of my counselling, this is one of the scenario that is often presented before me. Failures doesn't just happen, they are created to happen by our ignorance and unpreparedness. Many have failed because they see prosperity as the accumulation of material possessions. This wrong impression about success is the reason many are so desperate to achieve so much material wealth, and end up in the snare created by mischief makers – who are out there to use other's ignorance to their own advantage. We may have noticed pastors using the need for Christians to pursue wealth as avenue to keep demanding for seeds from unsuspecting victims who would have focused on the call of heaven for mankind. Prosperity is simply the fulfilment of God's purpose. The

making of money is not to be confused with the joy of the Lord that comes with the fulfilment of the will of God in one's life. We stop seeing ourselves as having failed in life when we stop using the material success of others as a yardstick to measure success, thus reducing anxiety. Do not use today to judge your end in life. Keep it real with God. Staying within the purpose of God is prosperity. Being filled with His wisdom daily is prosperity. Anxiety create failures on the path of our God-giving destiny and punches holes in our heavenly character.

**Faith confession:** *From today onwards, I make up my mind to follow the will and purpose of God for me. I equally stop being anxious over the chase of material riches. Let the hold of God on me lead me to His prosperity.*

**Let us pray:** *Today, I pray that your joy is sufficient for me. Lord! teach me to understand those things you are interested in that can sustain my Faith. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Psa. 73:3; 1 Tim. 6:9-11

Jan 20, 2019

# Not Again

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*For a just man falleth seven times, and  
riseth up again... Prov. 24:16*

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Sometimes we feel we were almost there – getting hold on what will give us joy. But, we realise that the joy we anticipated is not forth coming. In the anger of that seeming disappointment, we would begin to blame ourselves and others for the decisions we made. The more we live to blame, the more we find it hard to let go. In Philippians 3:12, Saint Paul made a statement that can be inferred to mean that perfection comes by continuously pressing forward. Are current events showing that what happened in the past is about to happen now? Have you tried to ignore an ugly event, yet the memories are hunting you? I will encourage you to take it to God – let His rod and staff comfort you. Take some time off from your busy schedule and commune with God on this matter. I am encouraged by Paul's words in Philippians 3: 14 – “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” When events seem to paint a disappointing image ahead of you – intensify your relationship with the Lord. Let Him totally into your situation. You may feel your dreams are shattering down before you. It could be obvious there seems to be no way out of the predicament. This

is when your hope in God must increase. Seek to know the desire of God for your life on earth. A statement of hope is found in Jeremiah 29:11-12, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.” Many have found succour in the above scripture portion. It strengthens me daily, and enables me to stay in focus – knowing that God thinks of me.

**Faith confession:** *From today onwards, I make up my mind to follow the will and purpose of God for me. I equally stop being anxious chasing wealth.*

**Let us pray:** *Lord! I submit under your will for me. Let your rod and staff comfort me. Let your word dwell in me richly. Let me showcase your love daily. Let the mist of salvation clothe me. Let your tender mercies overshadow me henceforth. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Psa. 23:4; Psa. 149:4; Psal. 104:33-34



Jan 21, 2019

# Have Guts?

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*For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand,  
saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Isa. 41:13*

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**W**hat is "guts?" It simply refers to courage, conviction, or resolve. To be courageous is to be brave. To have the conviction to do something is to have the required faith to achieve set goals. The resolve to do a thing is the firm determination to get over all the challenges that tends to thwart your ability to succeed. I have been asked severally if one need "Guts" to succeed in life, since success depends on the approval of God. Some have supported their opinion with Ecclesiastes 9:11, "...that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, ... but time and chance happeneth to them all." Others have quoted Zechariah 4:6, "...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." I have also heard believers say that Grace is unmerited through the Golgotha sacrifice of Jesus, so one does not really need to have the "Guts" to make ends meet on earth. If one look into the explanation given earlier, one will see that having guts is not like having the kind of boldness the wicked uses in oppressing the powerless or stealing public funds, or using humans for sacrificial rituals. We were attracted to

Grace through justification in Jesus while we were yet sinners, but the sustenance of our relationship with God depends on the works of faith. This is what I call the second achievable grace or the merited grace. Joshua was reminded by God to be strong and courageous to succeed – Jos. 1:7. With God all things are possible to them who favour His righteous cause – Psa. 35:27. God's righteous cause is not an easy one to sustain with all the challenges of life, but with the right bravery, determination and Faith in God, success is sure. You ask for guts, you have it. Life require some level of bravery.

***Faith confession:*** *I stand to be brave. I am determined to succeed. My heart is made up to overcome every obstacle standing on my way.*

***Let us pray:*** *Lord! I trust in your strength daily. Let me not be put to shame. Let me be like a tree that the winds cannot break and pull off the ground. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** Psalm 27:1-3;  
Colossians 1:11; Isaiah 40:29

Jan 22, 2019

# The Smile of Victory

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*...and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the Lord thy God hath blessed thee. Deut. 12:7*

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**I**n the anchor scripture above, the children of Israel were informed by Moses of the joy of serving the Lord. It is full of smiles of victory on every side. That victory will lead to believers rejoicing in their works of life. This January is a month many look towards God for unprecedented breakthroughs in their health and finances. It is the time when school fees and other travel expenses are made. Many renew their tenancy agreements this month too. This is why it seems as though one is starting on a rough note in January. For the saved in Christ, the wisdom to plan ahead is always given before this time, so that when January comes, we only spend what we had planned. Any additional spending would not be that much to weigh us down to the extent we would not rejoice in the Lord. Starting the year on a good note of smile of victory is essential to

keeping our joy through the remaining eleven months of the year, as it takes anxiety away from us. If the expenses in January are not going to make us sad, all we need is rely on the promises of God and how we can stay faithful to Him to receive them. This year is full of victory ahead, I hope you are prepared.

**Faith confession:** I know God blesses those who work with their hands. I shall rejoice in the works of my hand. The Lord takes pleasure in my labour.

**Let us pray:** My Lord and God, may I rejoice in the faithful works of my hand. May I find favour as I diligently carry out my vocation and profession. Amen!

**Meditation:** Prov. 6:6-10; Prov. 13:11; Prov. 14:23

Jan 23, 2019

# The Promises Behind the Vail

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*And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent. Matt. 27:51*

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**W**e read how the “vail” tore into two as Jesus gave His last human breath on earth. Now that the vail is tore, and what was hidden behind the vail is made open to all Faith seekers, what promises did the vail hid that is now made available to us? The vail separated the holy place from the most holy – Exo. 26:33. The Most Holy is also called the Holy of Holies, where the presence of God appeared. This is where the Lord dwells, and defines the purpose of the sanctuary – Lev. 4:6. This was the place where blood sacrifices of bullocks were brought before the Lord seeking His mercy upon the children of Israel who had sinned. Now that the Lord is visible to everyone, we have the promise of life and light given to everyone who confesses Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Are you willing to appear before the Throne of Grace? He has appeared in His glory never to depart – but we must approach in true repentance and sanctity to obtain the promise of God behind the vail – as He rest upon His mercy seat today. Despite the physical vail being ripped

into two, there is a spiritual vail in heaven that covers the presence of God, and only the sanctified can see through the vail and obtain the blessings of God. If the presence of God sanctified the physical tabernacle (Exo. 29:43), how much more will He sanctify those who worship Him in truth and in spirit. Jesus has equally become the vail separating us from God – without Him, no one can come to the mercy seat.

**Faith confession:** *I present myself before the throne of God – through the spiritual vails separating heaven from the earth, to meet with my Lord and Saviour in sanctity of mind and purity of thoughts.*

**Let us pray:** *Oh Lord! let the cloud give way for my prayers to ascend unto you before your golden altar and your mercy seat. I present myself today before your throne – in purity and sanctity, to experience your Mercy and Grace. Amen!*

**Meditation:** John 17:19; 1 Cor. 6:11

Jan 24, 2019

# The Mystery of God's Word

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*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God. John 1:1*

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**J**ohn 1:1, opened up with a mystery that explains how God works in the lives of His chosen ones. We came across the mystery first in the first chapter of the book of Genesis, when we read how the entire deformed earth was brought into glory through the spoken Word of God. For years, God's word has wrought wonders in the lives of many. The importance of the Word is seen in Jesus' statement in John 6:63, "... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Here, Jesus made us to know that words can carry spiritual strength with the ability to transform. Why would the word of God carry such efficacy to transform? Jesus made us to understand that the Word of God becomes the doctrine upon which His church must operate (John 7:16-17). This implies, that God is present in every Word that originate from Him, and He will envelop anyone who hears the Word, as it happened to Mary (Luke 1:35). The Word of God enters into the one that received it as hot illuminating light - Luke 24:32, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he

opened to us the scriptures?" This is where the Word becomes incarnated in the one receiving it. The moment Moses and Elijah began talking with Jesus, every Word they spoke was incarnated and because of Jesus' pure nature. His human nature gave way while He glowed in the Spirit (Mark 9:2-4). It was after then He became prepared for the crucifixion. Are you about to embark on a mission that seems impossible, or about to start a business, task at office, academic pursuit, etc., if you can receive and speak His Word today, there will be a transformation in your life beyond the understanding of the material world.

***Faith confession:*** Lord - Today, I understand the incarnate power of your Word. I will speak your Word upon my destiny henceforth.

***Let us pray:*** Oh Lord! Let your word incarnates in my life and transform me. Let me speak your word and receive everlasting results. Amen!

***Meditation:*** Psalm 19:14; 2 Sam. 23:2; Psalms 33:6

Jan 25, 2019

# When I Grow Up

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*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of  
righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth,  
and grow up as calves of the stall. Malachi 4:2*

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**I**t is good that we base our successes on reality. God is real, and all that emanates from Him are equally real. The sun will shine – that is real. You will wake up and meet others going about their works of life – this is equally real. It is the hope of living a life that is real that encourages every human to aspire to grow up someday and begin taking responsibilities that can build society. As a child, we often dream of becoming great in our chosen careers. However, there comes a time when we ought to ask ourselves if our dreams will ever come true. This is when we begin to compare reality with falsity. It is a time when we try to measure our achievements and compare with our age mates or colleagues at our various workplaces. Today is that day. We must set time apart to discuss with ourselves and really face the truth. Are we experiencing delays? Are we growing up without results to show for our many years on earth? The Scripture portion above says that the only avenue to growth and success is fearing the name of the Lord. We can

grow up and become very successful. It is possible. God enlarged Jabez because he was more honourable than his brethren - 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. David asked God to enlarge his heart to enable him to succeed as a King (Psalm 119:32). Can we wait on the Lord? Are we willing to be patient? - Luke 21:19. Are we ready to mount up with wings as eagles to succeed? - Isaiah 40:31. We have a date with success – and today is that day. May the joy of His salvation never leave you barren – Amen!

**Faith confession:** *Lord – Henceforth, I encourage myself to face reality. I will not base my success on fantasies. I promise myself to stop daydreaming.*

**Let us pray:** *Oh Lord! Today, I pray that you guide my heart to accept the truth about my life, and not to base my life on promises from others. Help my heart to understand the path of success and let my destiny glow in your glory. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Psalm 32:10-11; Psalm 52:8

Jan 26, 2019

# The Communion of the Righteous

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*He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood,  
dwelleth in me, and I in him. John 6:56*

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**W**hat is the essence of Jesus' statement above? Of course, many around Him read His lips literally and did walk out on Him. Yet, the context in which Jesus spoke was ethereal rather than mundane. In Isaiah 41:2, Scripture tells us that God raises the righteous and call him to his feet. Why? It is because God want to make the righteous victorious in all he does. Hence, one can say that when we live in Christ and sustain His divine image in our personality (John 17:21), the creations of God will rise to our challenges. I am convinced beyond all doubts that if we start this new year in His vision and purpose for us, we will definitely succeed. The anchor verse above says that through His being in us, as we remember and bear His burden of soul winning, He will dwell in us. Imagine what will happen in your life when Christ dwell in you. What will He plant in us? We have a quick answer in Galatians 4:6-7, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant,

but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." This is very important to our Faith. The spirit of Christ dwells in us to make us sons of God in heavenly places. Now, this earth honours only those that bears the mark of heavenly royalty. This can be confusing to many. But, the reason heaven and earth will honour your request is because you are carrying the voice of the Divine, which makes you speak as the mouthpiece of God. Such that, when you speak the incarnate Word of God – it will fulfil the purpose behind its declaration.

***Faith confession:*** Lord – *It is my desire to keep a date of communion in the spirit with you when I would study the scriptures, praise and pray in your name.*

***Let us pray:*** *Oh Lord! I pray for your indwelling spirit to live in me. I pray to receive Wisdom and Power in your name by your Holy Spirit. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** Matthew 21:21; Amos 3:7

Jan 27, 2019

# Riding on the High Places

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*He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. Deut. 32:13*

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**H**ave you ever wondered what will happen to you when you are appreciated by those in "High Places" of authority? When we work so hard, we expect that we receive commendations from those we work for, especially those in High Places. When God pities our situation and His countenance begins to shine upon our thoughts, we are bound to receive favour from men in High Places. Who occupies the High Places? In spiritual terms, the High Places are occupied by spirits, that controls the affairs of mankind through the manipulation of seasons and times. In physical terms, High Places implies those who rule over kingdoms. When we ride on the high places, we receive favours from the spiritual realm that rules over kingdoms, as they become subjected to our commands as long as Christ lives in us. In the physical, to receive favours from government and kingly authorities, we must have something that they lack and want us to bring into their government to make them succeed more – Ecc 8:1. This is the essence of the stories of Joseph and

Daniel in the Bible. Those in authority are carnal and their weak points lies in their need of gold, silver and all that money represents. Hence, getting a gift for your manager, for instance is not a bad idea (Pro 18:16), as it can make him start considering your genuine counsel. Though this is often seen as bribery when its intention is to manipulate results of interviews or contract award outcomes in one's favour and bypassing the defined selection criteria in place. If we look at Joseph's and Daniel's stories, they were qualified to handle the positions they were given, and not that they came into authority through bribery.

***Faith confession:*** *I understand that I need the power of Christ to control the spiritual realm and the wisdom of God to influence those in positions of power.*

***Let us pray:*** *Help me dear God through Christ to receive wisdom to influence those in leadership so that my counsel will not fall to the ground. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** Amos 4:13;  
Ephesians 6:12

Jan 28, 2019

# Not Giving Up

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*Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God:  
I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will  
uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Isa. 41:10*

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**W**hy do many give up on their genuine God-given dreams? So many reasons can be listed. Some live to please others without a reason to have done so – meaning, many live in the dreams of others without realising their own vision in life. Your vision can be in another's vision, which makes you a partner or you learn daily on how to fulfil your own vision in the near future – which makes the one you follow a trainer, bank of experience or source of strength. To achieve your dreams, you need to sustain the patience that is needed. Life is about patience – if you would ask me. Jesus opened up on this fact in Luke 21:19, “In your patience possess ye your souls.” In our life's goal-setting process, our souls become what our heart yearns for. Hence, if we want to possess what we ever desire to have that can add beauty to our God-given life, we need to focus on reality. Building one's dreams on promises of help from others will definitely lead us into pains when these promises are never fulfilled. Sometimes, as in the case of Saul who wanted David dead -1 Samuel 20:31, people try to exterminate

our dreams because they see us as threat to their own visions. Yet, God is not expecting us to give up – we can see how David finally became king despite all the threat to his life and destiny – 2 Samuel 5:10. Are you giving up right now? God promises in the anchor verse above that He will strengthen whoever comes to Him. Several pronouncements in Isaiah 41, indicates that with God the impossible is perfectly attainable (Isa. 41:18-19). Later down in verse 21 – God says we can appeal our case. Never give up – not now! The Word of God is meant to encourage the Courageous. Peace!

***Faith confession:*** *I am encouraged to move forward. Today I sustain my faith in the Lord. I am determined to be courageous no matter what comes my way.*

***Let us pray:*** *Lord! I pitch my tent of courage in your wisdom. Let me never be dismayed or discouraged to move on. Help me to build strength inward. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** Isaiah 42:16; Nahum 1:7



Jan 29, 2019

# Destiny Charmers

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*Charm is deceitful, and  
beauty is vain...Prov. 31:30 (ESV)*

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**C**an a Christian be ever charmed? What does it mean to be charmed? Why is this topic important to our lives as Christians? So many questions begging for answers – I guess. On the first question, it is important to clarify that we can be deceived to take actions that can destroy our destinies. To be charmed is to become influenced to act in a predetermined way by the charmer. Esau was charmed by Jacob's stew and that led to him losing His birth right. A young adorable lady can be charmed through gifts by a man who is not interested in marrying her, but using her as a mistress. A client can be charmed by a contractor through gifts, which gives the contractor an upper hand in taking decisions that influences the cost and time of project delivery. A pastor can equally be charmed by members of his congregation to the extent that the pastor can no longer preach about their nefarious actions. Christ warned that if the disciples were not careful, they can be charmed when He said – Mark 13:22, "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect." Here, to

charm is the same as seduction. So, we can agree that no one is above charming, yet how we respond to actions that could charm us to toe the path of sin can go a long way in helping us remain chaste before the Lord. If we can overcome such acts from unbelievers around us, there is every iota of truth present in Scripture that God will be with us and help us to succeed. Do you want to be fruitful? It is time to avoid seduction – whether aimed at sexual immorality, stealing, lying, deceit, etc. "All that glitters is not Gold." Not all works of life attracts the blessings of God. Ask well – seek godly counsel before you venture out.

***Faith confession:*** *I am determined to expend all avenues of godly counsel before embarking on any venture. I must make the effort to resist being charmed.*

***Let us pray:*** *Lord I don't want to lose my destiny in the hands of destiny charmers. Help me to live upright in order to sustain your counsel. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** 2 Kings 21:9;  
Deut. 32:26-29

Jan 30, 2019

# The Path of Fruitfulness

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*There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and  
which the vulture's eye hath not seen .Job 28:7*

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I remember how the Lord called me into His ministry with a verse that encourages me to follow Him without questioning His will for my destiny. That verse is Isaiah 42:16, "...I will lead them in paths that they have not known..." If we look at the anchor verse from the book of Job above, we can begin to understand that our walk with God and our work in Him are not mere physical endeavours. They are filled with spiritual interludes. This implies that those that must follow the path outlined by God, must do so with the zeal and confidence to discover newness and receive novel instructions daily. Scripture says that the compassions of the Lord are inestimable and they elaborately define His undying faithfulness toward mankind. When the Lord beckoned on His disciples, He always encouraged them to follow Him. While replying Pilate in John 18:36, Jesus answered that His kingdom has no part with this material world. The question is why was he leaving His disciples and future followers like us in this world when He has renounced all that the world holds? It is obvious that He wants us to encourage others to follow the path of

fruitfulness (Matthew 28:19-20). Are you fainting in your Christian race? Are you intimidated by many that your God is dead because you lack material wealth? Do not be in a hurry. Know that the path is strait (Lk 13:24); full of temptations (Mat 6:13), of persecutions (Mk 10:30), of insults (Mat 10:25), etc. Moreover, we have counsel from God - But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint - Isa 40:31. Let us be encouraged. The vine dresser is pruning us (John 15:1-5) to become as perfect as He is (Mat 5:48).

***Faith confession:*** *I am encouraged to follow this fruitful path that God will reveal to me daily. I refuse to depend on human wisdom to live.*

***Let us pray:*** *Dear God, help me to follow your guidance every day of my life. Also, help me to lead others to follow your path daily. Amen!*

***Meditation:*** Jer 29:11; Psa 23:1-6

Jan 31, 2019

# The Draining Flow

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*The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. Proverbs 21:5*

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I want to believe that you have followed each study to this day – being the last date in the month of January 2019. I am led in the spirit to talk about a phenomenon I have titled – “The Draining Flow.” Such an ironical statement - I guess. What is responsible for many unable to account for every increase that come their way? Salaries are spent before they come!

Pregnancies are terminated before they are born! Businesses collapse in the midst of huge investment! Many are locked up in the web of mischief makers that ends in court! These are all avenues for financial wastage, which later drains one into states of emotional disorganisation. As Christians, our best bet is to run down to God for rescue. But, before we do that – few questions need to be answered. The first is related to how we plan our daily activities and how we execute them. Next, we need to ask if we actually developed love for what we do for a living. If we don't develop that passion at the beginning, there is every tendency we won't be able to plug holes of wastage in our lives. Again, it is important to ensure we are not owning vows that we made to God.

Equally important is the way we go about our service to God – especially, if we are appointed into roles in the church that we have abandoned. For men, you need to ask yourself if ladies dresses seductively in your office – even in your living room, as this pushes the angels away. King David opened up on the secret of success in Psalms 34:7, “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” One sight angels do not tolerate is the sight of female seduction. The absence of angels in your home and business office because of seductive atmosphere is avenue for the devil to attack your investments.

**Faith confession:** *Henceforth, I resolve to monitor my life daily, in order to track every source of devilish attack that can drain out my flow of blessings.*

**Let us pray:** *Oh Lord – Let this day mark the end of my sorrows. Let every pipe installed by the devil to drain out my blessings be destroyed henceforth. Amen!*

**Meditation:** Proverbs 10:6-22

## Covenant Confession

If you are not born again, you may have studied this devotional as literary material and will not receive the spirit therein. You can make a decision to correct that now by saying this covenant confession:

*Lord Jesus, I know now that you died for my sins. I believe and confess you as my Lord and Saviour. Please come into my life and dwell inside me.*

If you just said this confession, you should locate a spirit-filled church to join in fellowship with them – let the pastor know you just gave your life to Christ and you will be directed on what to do next. Salvation is a personal race and you must be serious with it.

You can also call us through the numbers below: +2348076190064; +234-8086737791.

Or send the author an email:  
[umonthoja@yahoo.com](mailto:umonthoja@yahoo.com)

NOTE




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# Worship with us @



## **Royal Diamonds Int'l Church** *(Christ Movement)*

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• WEDNESDAY  
**5:30PM**

• SUNDAY  
**8:30AM**

• SUNDAY SCHOOL  
**7:30AM**

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📍 Nnanta Close, Off Weli Street, Eneka Road,  
Rumunduru, Port Harcourt

📞 08086737791

✉ [info@christmovementinternational.org](mailto:info@christmovementinternational.org)

# About the Author

Pastor Oghenethoja Umuteme encountered God the day he was baptised at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Owhelogbo Delta State, when he received a warm feeling in his heart as he confessed the Lord Jesus as His lord and personal saviour. His birth was surrounded with mysteries – he was born to a mother who had been barren for eight years. There was hardly anything he said that did not come to pass as he was growing. In 1994 he had a dream in which he received an orange which contained a bible with a red cover. Events continued dramatically until he started hearing voices telling him to go for rescue, as many souls were heading for destruction. Then it became clear to him that he was being called to carry out the task of restoring mankind back to Jesus.

In January 2006, he heard a voice telling him to read Isaiah 42. On reading to verse



6, he felt a deep force within him and started trembling and a voice said - 'I have called you.' As he read further

he was getting immersed in the spirit of God and when he read verse 22, the voice said, 'this is your task.' Then on the 13th of October 2008, he heard a voice while driving: 'Service starts in your house on Sunday.' Events happened that were beyond his understanding and on Sunday 19th October 2008, the first public worship service came to pass.

He is trained at Rivers State University, Nigeria; Robert Gordon University, UK; UNICAF University, Cyprus; Nations University, USA; and TGSAT, India; leading to academic degree certificates in engineering, organisational psychology, divinity and theology. He has over 11 years' work experience as an engineer, growing to the position of Engineering Design Lead in the oil and gas industry, and equally has a rich curriculum vitae that covers trainings and experiences in other works of life, such as human resources management, marketing management, legal studies, alternative dispute resolution, etc. Pastor Oghenethoja Umuteme is married to Pastor(Mrs.) Umuteme Adokiye Obele, who supports him in the call of God upon his life, and their marriage is blessed with children.